EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Mr. Keith R. Obert (Reg. No. 58, 051) on 12/30/2009.

Amend claim 1 as follows:

At line 1, delete claim limitation, *"at an image processing system"*

Amend claim 12 as follows:

At line 13, after claim limitation, "said certain step size being different in each method

for encoding" insert *"a code word indicating the selected encoding method on the basis*

of the original and limited number of bits in the pixel in such a way that the code word

length does not exceed N - (M - 1) where M corresponds to the limited number of bits

and N corresponds to he original number of bits, and"

Amend claim 23 as follows:

At line 12, after claim limitation "said certain step size being different in each method for

encoding" delete "and" and insert *"to determine a code word indicating the selected*

encoding method on the basis of the original and limited number of bits in the pixel in

such a way that the code word length does not exceed N - (M - 1) where M corresponds

to the limited number of bits and N corresponds to he original number of bits, and"

Amend claim 28 as follows:

At line 1, delete "27" and replace   by "23".

Amend claim 30 as follows:

At line 1, delete "a readable storage" and replace by "a computer readable medium"

Amend claim 32 as follows:

At line 12, after claim limitation "said certain step size being different in each method for encoding" insert *"to determine a code word indicating the selected encoding method on the basis of the original and limited number of bits in the pixel in such a way that the code word length does not exceed N - (M - 1) where M corresponds to the limited number of bits and N corresponds to he original number of bits, and"*

Amend claim 38 as follows:

At line 13, after claim limitation "said certain step size being different in each method for encoding" insert *"to determine a code word indicating the selected encoding method on the basis of the original and limited number of bits in the pixel in such a way that the code word length does not exceed N - (M - 1) where M corresponds to the limited number of bits and N corresponds to he original number of bits, and"*

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3.   Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11-12, 14, ,16-23, 25-26, 28-32 and 34-38 are allowed over prior art record. (The claims will be renumbered 1-30).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of

references disclose or fairly suggest, among other things, *"determining a code word*

indicating the selected encoding method on the basis of the original and limited number

of bits in the pixel in such a way that the code word length does not exceed N - (M - 1)

where M corresponds to the limited number of bits and N corresponds to he original

number of bits (in claims 1, 12, 23, 32, 37 and 38)." It is for this reason and in

combination with all of the other documents of the claims that claims 1-3, 5-8, 11-12, 14,

16-23, 25-26, 28-32 and 34-38 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to AKLILU k. WOLDEMARIAM whose telephone number is

(571)270-3247. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m-

5:00 p.m EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Bali Vikkram can be reached on 571-272-7415. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DANIEL G MARIAM/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/A. k. W./
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624
12/30/2009